

SOME GREAT GIANTS

MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE OF GIANTIC STATURE.

The Greatest Was Eight Feet Six Inches High—Most of Them Not Strong and Died Young—Historical Figures.



HE finding of gigantic skeletons, supposed to be human remains, buried deep in the earth, gives rise to the belief that there were at some period of the world's history giants and gigantes 100 feet high; but Sir Hans Sloane and Georges Cuvier effectually dispelled the notion, and demonstrated beyond all doubt that these bones were the mortal remains of mammoths and mastodons, and that the so-called "giants' teeth" had originally ornamented the mouths of colossal whales. The earnest seeker after truth must, therefore, considerably modify his notions as to the true height of the men who were giants in those days, and regretfully accept the latest opinion that there is no well authenticated case of any human being attaining to a greater height than 10 feet. The celebrated giants of the last three hundred years have in no case reached the 10-feet limit, the majority being only something over 7 feet.

Daniel, Oliver Cromwell's porter, is described as a man "of gigantic proportions," though his exact measurements are not given. The same authority informs us that he was "eminent for his sanctity, and for prophesying many memorable events, particularly the fire of London." Another giant who flourished in the early part of the seventeenth century, was Walter Parsons, who was gate-keeper to two kings, James I. and Charles II. Parsons stood 7 feet 6 inches in his stockings, possessed remarkable muscular power, and was of a merry disposition. He loved practical jokes as a medium for the display of his great



CORNELIUS MAGRATH.



CATHERINE DOEBNER.
(A Swiss Giantess.)

strength, a favorite pastime being the sudden snatching up of two of the most stalwart soldiers on guard at the palace. Carrying one under each arm he would run around the courtyard with his indignant burthen, who were perfectly powerless in that iron grip. Maximilian Christopher Muller was a native of Leipzig, and was exhibited at the Blue Posts, Charing Cross, in the year 1732. He was eight feet in height, well proportioned, and, unlike most modern giants, possessed of remarkable strength. Before his arrival in England he had made a tour of Europe, and had been presented to most of the leading potentates. He was a great favorite at the Court of Louis XIV. of France, who presented him with a silver mace and a richly jeweled scimitar. Muller's characteristic figure, with its abnormally large head, was immortalized by the pencil of Hogarth. Muller lived to a comparatively old age, dying in 1734, at the age of 60.

Cornelius Magrath, the celebrated Irish giant, was born in 1737, and at the age of sixteen measured six feet. He was an orphan brought up by the philosopher Berkeley, Bishop of Cloyne, who was suspected of dabbling in the black art, and a ridiculous story obtained credence that the great height of Magrath was the result of a course of experimental feeding, and the inhibiting of magic potions. This strange tale had, doubtless, no better foundation in fact than that the good bishop opined that good living and tonics are the best means of building up the constitutions of overgrown youths. Be that as it may, Magrath steadily increased in length and strength, and at the age of nineteen measured 7 feet 8 inches.

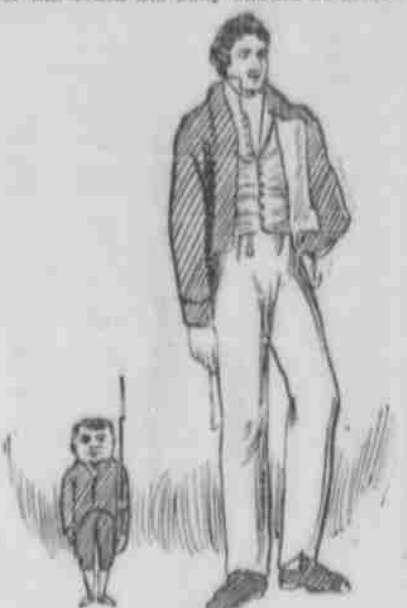
Our illustration, from a print of the

period, represents him side by side with a German drum-major. The skeleton of "the great Irish giant" is preserved in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin.

Two other celebrated Irish giants, Charles and Patrick O'Brien, flourished in the eighteenth century.

Charles, whose surname was really Bryne, measured 8 feet 2 inches, and died in Cockspur street, Charing Cross, in 1783, aged twenty-two. His death was precipitated by excessive drinking, to which he was always addicted, but more particularly after the loss of all his property, saved from the profits of exhibiting himself, which he had simply vested in a bank note for £700. On going to bed one night O'Brien hid the precious note in the fireplace. A servant girl, unaware of the fact, lit the fire, and the note was destroyed.

O'Brien had a morbid dread lest after his death his body should be seized



TOLLER AND SIMON PAAP.

on by the surgical fraternity and dissected, so in his will he directs that his remains shall be thrown into the sea. A paper of the period gives a detailed account of his burial at sea, off the coast of Margate, but it was afterwards asserted in The Public Ledger that Dr. William Hunter had purchased the body of the celebrated giant, whose skeleton was subsequently added to the other wonders of the Hunterian Collection to be seen in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

The other Irish giant, Patrick O'Brien, was born about 1760, at Kinsale. His real name was Cotter, and he measured 8 feet 7 inches, though the advertisement of the time gave his height as 9 feet, and claim for him a descent from King Brian Boru. Though much taller than Charles O'Brien (to whom he was in no way related), Patrick lacked the latter's strength and physique, though he lived to be more than twice as old as the smaller giant, dying at the age of forty-seven.

It is said that from Yorkshire and Lancashire come the tallest men and women as far as England is concerned. William Bradley was a native of the former county, and was born in the East Riding in the year 1792, according to a description of him published, with an old print, which we reproduce. Bradley was a teetotaler, having never tasted wine, beer, or spirits. At the age of nineteen he measured 7 feet 8 inches, and was remarkable for the great size of his hands and feet. At the age of 11 he weighed 11 stone, while at nineteen he turned the scale at 27 stones. His shoe was 15 inches long and 5½ inches wide, and his stockings 3 feet 9 inches in length. Like so many other giants, Bradley died young, and was buried in his native town, Market Weighton.

James Toller, the Huntingdon giant, whose portrait, together with that of Simon Paap, the dwarf, we present to our readers, was born in 1795, at St. Neots, Huntingdonshire. At the age of seventeen he measured 8 feet; and at his death, which took place in 1819, he had reached the great height of 8 feet 6 inches. His father and mother were of the ordinary altitude, but he had a sister who at the age of sixteen stood fully six feet. Simon Paap, the dwarf, measured only 28 inches, and at the age of twenty-six weighed only 27 lbs. His head was out of all proportion to his diminutive body, but he was very intelligent, speaking several



COLONEL CHANG.
(The Chinese Giant.)

languages fluently. Both he and Toller drew all London when they were exhibited early in the present century.

Two foreign giants, Louis Franz, a Frenchman, and Joachim Eliezeul, a Spaniard, became for a period the lions of the day. Louis Franz, better known as "Monsieur Louis," was ex-

hibited in New Bond street, and stood 7 feet 6 inches in his stockings; while the Spaniard, who called himself "the Spanish Goliath," measured 7 feet 10 inches. He was appointed drum-major to one of the French regiments, and made a grand show with his baton of office, a heavily headed long cane, profusely ornamented and gilded, which he twirled and twisted in time to the martial music as the regiment marched through the streets of the gay city.

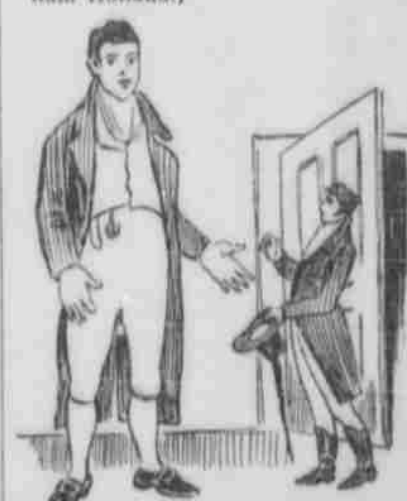
He came to London in 1846 and was exhibited in the Cosmorama Rooms, Regent street, with great eclat and prestige, "having been honored with munificent tokens of approbation from His Majesty Louis Philippe, King of the French, Her Majesty the Queen of Portugal, and Her Majesty the Queen of Spain. The great Spaniard was, however, eclipsed by the celebrated Norfolk giant, Robert Hales, a native of the little village of West Somerton, near Great Yarmouth. He was one of a family of giants, his father measuring 6 feet 6 inches and his mother 6 feet. He had five sisters considerably over 6 feet and four brothers nearly as tall as their father, but Robert overtopped them all, measuring nearly 8 feet, and possessing a strongly knit frame in perfect proportion. He measured 63 inches round the chest, and 21 inches round the calf of the leg. It took 7 yards of broad cloth to make him a suit of clothes. At the age of thirteen he entered the Royal Navy, and served on board H. M. S. Ranger, under Captain Wells, during a period of three years.

The enterprising Barnum took Hales to America in 1848, whence he returned and set up as mine host of the Craven Head tavern, Drury Lane. Here he dispensed stout and bitter to an admiring crowd, who gaped in wonder at his gigantic proportions, and examined with awe the massive gold watch and chain which the royal hands of Queen Victoria had bestowed upon him.

Hales failed, however, to make the Craven Head tavern pay, and returned once more to the show business. While making a tour in a caravan he



FRAULEIN MARIAN.
(As the Amazon Queen, in "Babil and Bijon," with her manager, Mr. William Holland.)



WILLIAM BRADLEY.

caught a severe cold, which, settling on the lungs, carried him off at the early age of 42.

A foreign giant, who held receptions in London, accompanied by a wonderful dwarf, General Tiny-Mite, was Col. Chang, of Pekin, who at the age of thirty-five measured eight feet six inches, and weighed 500 pounds, or over thirty-five stone, while his little partner measured only 19 inches, and weighed four pounds and three-quarters. Chang was remarkably handsome, and presented an imposing appearance in his richly embroidered white satin garments. He was a man of culture and considerable refinement, speaking, beside his native tongue, Japanese, English, Spanish, German and French. In spite of his gigantic proportions, there was considerable grace about his movements, while a certain air of distinction added greatly to his almost regal presence. Like most giants of modern times, he died comparatively young, passing away at Bournemouth in 1893 at the age of 48.

A remarkable marriage took place in the summer of the year 1873, when Capt. Bates, "the Kentucky giant," espoused Miss Anna H. Swan, "the Nova Scotia giantess." Capt. Bates measured 8 feet, while his fair bride stood nearly 7 feet 11 inches in her satin shoes.

The gallant bridegroom had won his spurs in the American civil war, in which he had greatly distinguished himself, being wounded several times in various engagements. Both he and his bride had been exhibited in London in the years 1869 and 1870, and it was during this period that an affection sprang up between the two which culminated in the marriage.

Captain Bates was one of a family of giants, but Miss Swan's parents were, if anything, below the usual stature.

It was not likely that Barnum, the prince of showmen, would miss the chance of exhibiting a young lady who at 11 years of age measured 6 feet, and like another giantess of later times, was "still growing." Hence we find her astonishing all New York till the burning down of Barnum's establishment and the narrow escape of the fair Nova Scotian put an end for a time to Miss Swan's receptions.

Possessed of considerable attractions, his some histrionic ability, we find Miss Swan, soon after the disastrous fire, drawing large audiences to a New York theatre to witness her impersonation of Lady Macbeth, but she soon returned to the show business, and made a grand tour in America, subsequently visiting the principal cities of the old world.

Here and there! We have hitherto, with two exceptions, made mention only of famous male giants, reserving to the last a little portrait gallery of three celebrated giantesses, whose biographical notices, having regard to the amount of space at disposal, must necessarily be brief.

Some years ago there was exhibited in Piccadilly a young Swiss lady named Catherine Boehler. At the age of 23 she measured 6 feet 5 inches, and came to England after a tour in Europe, during which she was presented at the courts of Russia and Germany, creating quite a sensation by her beauty, which was greatly enhanced by the picturesque costume in which she appeared.

All Will Be Cooks.

The preliminary fashionable fad of the season is cooking. To be in the very height of the moment you must join a cooking class or form a cooking class, according to your success as a popular favorite. The rooms devoted to cooking at the Armour Institute are filled with the debutantes who are to bow their prettiest to society during the coming month, and the debutantes who went through the ordeal last year. You begin at the beginning with washing dishes and you end the term a domestic jewel. Nothing is too complicated for your capacity, from bread making to the indigestible edibles that simmer under the cover of a chafing dish. When Owen Meredith wrote his verses in praise of cooks and dining, his prophetic vision must have rested upon the picture of the fashionable modern queen of the kitchen.

Greed for Office.

A Bucks county man spent nineteen years of his life trying to get the appointment of postmaster. Finally he worked his strings properly and was appointed. When he learned that he was counted only as a fourth-class postmaster he immediately resigned. He said he had worked long enough to be a first-class postmaster, and denied if he hadn't sense enough to know it.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Saved by an Indian.

When Albert Miskew was being shot at by three robbers at his Chicago place of business he dodged behind an Indian standing on the sidewalk. The bandits filled the Indian full of bullets and ran away. The Indian was wooden.—Ex.

FAMOUS KISSES.

The kiss, we are told, was a formula of good will among the ancient Romans and was adopted by the early Christians, whose "holy kiss" and "kiss of charity" carried the weight of apostolic sanction.

It is usual that the golden cross of the sardal on the pope's right foot should be kissed by newly created cardinals and by those to whom an audience is granted. Even royal persons paid this act of homage to the Vicar of Christ, Charles V being the last to do so.

Kisses admit of great variety of character, and there are eight diversities mentioned in the scriptures. It is as a sign of reverence and in order to get a sacred seal upon their vows that witnesses in a court of law, when they are called upon to speak "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth," are required to touch the bible with their lips, as also are soldiers when they enlist and make the oath of allegiance to Queen Victoria.

Men in uncivilized regions kiss the feet of a superior or the ground in front of him, and in ancient times to press the lips to the knee or to the hem of a garment was to humbly implore protection. The Maoris have adopted the custom of kissing, but the negroes of West Africa refuse to do so, and apparently that which is a medium of so much pleasure to many nations fills them with dislike.

The pleasant old Christmas custom of a kiss under the mistletoe is a relic of Norse mythology. Baldur, the beautiful god of light, was slain by a spear whose shaft was a mistletoe twig. This was bewitched by Loki, the mischievous god of fire, until it swelled to the requisite size and was given by him to blind Hodur, who threw it and unintentionally struck Baldur when the gods were at play. Friga had made everything in heaven and earth swear not to harm Baldur, but had left out the mistletoe as being so slight and weak to be of harm. Baldur, however, was restored to life, and Friga guarded the mistletoe, which the gods determined should not again have power to do any mischief unless it touched the earth. For this reason it is always hung from the ceiling and the vigilant goddess propitiated by the kiss, a sign of good-will.

AUSTRIA'S PREMIER.

A NEW MAN AT THE HELM OF THE EMPIRE.

He is a Middle-of-the-Roader, and is Not a Strong Character Individually—His Admirers on All Sides, However, and May Succeed.



ARON GAUTSCH VON FRANKENTHURN, the new premier of Austria, is recognized by all parties as the man best able to master the present situation. He did not espouse the cause of any one faction, and because of the

able and impartial manner in which he discharged his duties as minister of public instruction under the premiership of Count Badeni, he enjoys the confidence of all. His wide knowledge of affairs and his diplomatic methods recommended him to the high position to which he has been appointed. It is thought that he will devise some amicable means of patching up the existing differences of the German and Bohemian speaking people of the empire. The baron is one of the most scholarly men of the empire and an orator of no mean ability. His speeches before parliament have always attracted a throng. He is the author of several legal works. The people love him and delight to refer to him as a self-made man. His father was a captain of police in the City of Vienna. The son was educated at the famous Theresianum Academy, which was founded by Empress Marie Therese, and before the revolution in 1848 was attended only by the sons of noble families. In 1873 he entered official service in the department of war and public in-



BARON GAUTSCH.

struction, where his talents gained him rapid advancement. In 1881 he was honored by being chosen director of the Theresianum Academy. In 1885 he was made minister of war and public instruction, one of the most important positions in the cabinet. He was then only 34 years old, and it is said that no other man has received this appointment at so early an age. In 1893 he retired from the cabinet with Count Taffee, but was again chosen to the same office in 1895 under the premiership of Count Badeni. One of the most conspicuous of his services is the reform of instruction in the high schools and universities. He married the daughter of Schlumberger, the celebrated wine grower. Their eldest daughter was married a few weeks ago to Baron Klein, secretary of the provincial government of Moravia, the wedding being an especially brilliant event in Vienna society. The baron is tall and fine looking, with a handsome face. His hair was gray before he was 35.

Germs Killed by Frost.

In view of the destructive effect of sunlight, especially of the blue to the ultra-violet rays, upon bacteria in winter, Professor H. Marshall Ward would explain the comparative freedom of waters under the blazing hot summer sun from bacteria, as against the more abundant infection of the same waters in winter. Pasteur and Miquel found that the germs floating in the air are, for the most part, dead-killed, the author holds, by the sun. Yeasts which normally vegetate on the exterior of ripening grapes are destroyed, according to Martindale, if the heat is very intense, and Guinl has observed that the ingress of sunlight hinders acetic fermentation. When the typhoid bacillus falls into turbid, dirty water in summer it finds a congenial propagating place. The dirt furnishes it food, absorbs heat to increase the warmth, and keeps off the hostile blue and violet rays.

Becoming Mannish.

A Springfield reporter has discovered that confirmed athletic habits, encouraged by the example of successive college football games in town, have resulted in a notable increase in the size of the feminine hand and foot. At the Springfield glove counter, "formerly the demand was for fives and fives and a half, but now six and six and a half is a fair average. The same tendency is noticeable in shoes."—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

The Chilkoot the Worst.

Henry De Windt, the famous globe-trotter, says: "I have roughed it for the past fifteen years in Siberia, in Borneo and in Chinese Tartary, but I can safely describe my climb over the Chilkoot pass as the severest physical experience of my life."

INFLUENCE OF THE VOICE.

Soft and Musical Speech One of Woman's Greatest Charms.

Eleanor Morton Parker, writing of "The Voice" in the December Woman's Home Companion, says:

"It has long been conceded that pleasant voice is one of woman's greatest charms. And many of us can verify this truth for ourselves by recalling the sweet influence of some woman, who like the lovely Cordelia, spoke in accents soft and low. A pretty face and a musical voice go well together, but of the two the latter is preferable. The power of a truly good woman possessing such a gift cannot be overestimated, especially if she is refined and intellectual. Her harmonious tones fall with a restful cadence upon the ear of the invalid. They are peace for the weary, balm for the sorrowful, and are frequently more efficacious than a sermon in touching the obdurate hearts of the wayward.

"On the contrary, we sometimes find rare beauty of feature seriously marred by the incongruity of a disagreeable voice. It is said of the Empress Eugenie that the stranger was enraptured with her wonderful beauty, but the moment she spoke an admiration was forgotten in the unpleasant sensation caused by her harsh Spanish voice. American women as a rule are not blessed with particularly musical voices. The colds, catarrhs and bronchial trouble to which the sudden changes of our climate subject us more or less affect the vocal organs. In fact, soft, rippling utterance seems to belong more generally to lands of eternal summer. Yet any woman, no matter how great her natural defects may be, can, with toy exceptions, bring her voice within a becoming key, and by proper care and exercise cultivate distinct, well-modulated tones. And it is her duty to do so, since nothing will more certainly bring upon her social ostracism than neglect in this regard.

"We are tired of being taunted by foreigners with our boisterous, loud-talking girls and women, when we know that many of those who make such unfavorable impressions upon strangers are at heart kind, gentle and refined. Let us hope that with the present movement for physical culture and voice culture and every other kind of culture, the noisy, garrulous woman of street-car and watering-place fame will have soon passed away, and in her stead come a being who will not converse as though every one within hearing were deaf, and she were bound to finish the sentence she is bent on uttering that very moment or never. There is no greater assurance of a happy home than a calm, well-regulated voice, and the woman who possesses it has won half the victory toward social and domestic success."

ROYALTY TO BE MATED.

A Russian Grand Duchess Is Looking for a Suitable Husband.

Sixteen years old and a first cousin of the czar, the Grand Duchess Helene is not likely long to remain in the matrimonial market. In fact, sympathetic matchmakers have already begun to cast about for a suitable husband for her highness. Her father is the Grand Duke Vladimir, brother of the late Emperor Alexander, and her mother is the Grand Duchess Marie, born of Mecklenburg, a family which has supplied several consorts to the reigning house in Russia. The Grand Duchess Marie is a clever and intellectual woman. There is little of the typical high-bred Russian about the young grand duchess. In fact, she resembles an English girl, and, like most English girls, spends much of her time in indulging in outdoor sports. Like most Russians, she is extremely fond of music, and during her frequent visits to Paris with her parents she is often allowed to accompany them to the opera. As it is the Russian custom for the daughters of the imperial house to appear at public festivities at a much earlier age than are the children of other royal families, the grand duchess has already appeared at many of the



THE GRAND DUCHESS HELENE.

state functions of the court and has created a decidedly favorable impression.

English Humor.

A gentleman went to look over a house that was to be let furnished. He was piloted through the rooms by a very pretty housemaid. As he was leaving he turned to the girl, saying: "And are you to be let with the house?" "No, sir," she replied. "I am to be let alone."—London News.

Scenes in Mexico.

It has been determined to raise up an ambidextrous generation in the state of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and the government has ordered that the pupils in all the official schools shall be taught to write and perform all manual tasks as well with the left hand as with the right.